

Canterbury Cemetery Trustees

Minutes from November 3, 2021 meeting

Chairman Goegel opened the meeting at 12 p.m., and roll was taken. Present were Jan Cote, Sam Papps, John Goegel, Kent Ruesswick, and Mark Stevens.

John made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 15, 2021 meeting as written. Jan Cote seconded. Vote was unanimous and copy was placed on file.

Kent Ruesswick's Sexton Report was brief, noting that Ann Fifield had been buried at the Maple Grove a few weeks ago.

Mark Stevens' Historian Report noted that he met Danish relatives of a Canterbury veteran who were looking for his burial location, and he was able to help them locate the grave. Fred Brewster called Mark and said the Canterbury Historical Society would be doing a sign at the Worsted Church, not the Center. Mark also found a previously unknown burial site on the Windfall in Northfield, where a headstone for Janet is broken, but he had no further information yet. Ron Turcotte had called Mark to ask him to take pictures of the Guertin Barn site, and that Ron and Judy Nelson had filled in the ruts left on the Town Pound Lane from the deconstruction of the barn. Mark noted he and Kent had walked the wetlands at the woods surrounding the Maple Grove and Mark had delineated wetlands for the clearing project. He also expressed concern regarding the culvert the NH DOT had put in at the Center on Kimball Pond Road from the Elkins Memorial Building to the Center Cemetery, and thought the sheet flow issue that occurred during heavy rain or spring thaw may be improved, but he is not confident that the catch basin solution is good for the Center Cemetery. If the run off makes the area marshy, then it could become wetlands. What do we do, wait until it fails and call the DOT to complain? The Road Agent and Town Administrator were both aware of the project and saw no cause for concern. Mark reported that another wedding occurred on October 31, 2021 at the Center Cemetery. This is the second wedding known to have taken place in the Cemetery. How can we discourage this from happening? Mark also asked for facts and figures for the annual Town Report, and suggested perhaps Hugh Fifield would be a fitting subject. John Goegel thanked Mark for his help assisting people with burial locations and expressed the Trustee's appreciation for his time.

John stated that the proposed plaque he had suggested for George Shannon had not progressed and perhaps it should not be pursued this year. It has been suggested that perhaps the DAR or SAR might donate monies towards the project. He is hopeful it will be done by 2025, the quarter-millennial observance of the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Jan presented a Keeper's Report, detailing that the Trustees visited cemeteries for the annual Cemetery Inspection on the east side of Canterbury on September 29th, and on the west side of Canterbury on October 6th. She stated there were some 13 stones that needed repair in the small cemeteries. She has reached out to Keepers to thank them for their work. Overall the cemeteries were in pretty good shape. It was asked that Mark Stevens start forming a list of cemeteries that are outside of Canterbury but lie close to the border that the Trustees should be aware of despite them not being in our purview.

Final Minutes approved 11/17/21 meeting s.p.

Item 6, *MG Cemetery Expansion Project* was discussed at length between Kent, who had been gathering bids and information, and the Trustees. He passed around several figures of the cost for the project from Canterbury Timber Company, who Kent met with, and Mark Stevens as previously noted, had delineated the wetlands. This project would include the clearing of a section, thinning of trees, the construction of a service road and second entrance to the cemetery off Baptist Hill Road, removal of the existing dirt pile, and the stumping and site work to clean up the mess. It is estimated another 400 graves will be gleaned for the cemetery by this project. Kent has also been working with Kevin Bragg to design a map showing this project. The Trustees decided to table the conversation, and come back to it at their next meeting November 17, 2021 to make a decision of the next step.

Item 8 was skipped in the interest of time, and item 9 (Tree and Headstone Budgets) was discussed. Kent will meet Brian Magoon at the Maple Grove and see about numbers for the next meeting.

Under New Business, it was noted that Jeff and Claudia Leidinger were expressing serious interest in being interred as cremation burials at the Shell Meeting House Cemetery. John brought up Rachel Volner's request for a bench with a 5' base to be positioned on three graves in the Diane Modugno lot, Maple Grove F7-1/2/3. John made a motion to allow Rachel Volner to place a bench with a 5-foot wide base on the lot, centered on the three graves. Sam seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was taken, John Goegel, yes; Jan Cote, yes; Sam Papps, no. Motion carries two to one.

Because the meeting was running short on time, it was agreed to meet Wednesday November 17th at 11 a.m. at the Meeting House, agenda to be determined, and then have a work party after lunch 11/17 at the Maple Grove to remove objects in preparation of winter. John made a motion to close the meeting at 1:26 p.m., seconded by Sam. Motion carried and the meeting was closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Papps, Secretary

Next meeting: Wednesday November 17, 2021 at 11 a.m. at the Meeting House.